



# NREDA

NATIONAL.  
RURAL.  
CONNECTED.

# 2026 Annual Conference



**November 4-6, 2026 | Salt Lake City, Utah**

Elevating Innovation from the Ground Up

## ***Tuesday, November 3rd***

**5:00pm – 6:30pm      Pre-Conference Meet Up**

## ***Wednesday, November 4th***

**8:00am – 4:30pm      Onsite Check-in at Salt Lake City Marriott Center**

**10:00am – 11:00am      Pre-Conference Session**

**“Lead Without Speaking – The Importance of Nonverbal Communication”**

Erick Rheam

**11:15am – 12:45pm      New Member/First Time Attendee Luncheon**

**1:00pm – 1:15pm      Conference Welcome**

Karla Organist, NREDA President

Kris Williams, 2026 NREDA Annual Conference Chair

**1:15pm – 2:15pm      “Rise Above Chaos and Discover Significance”**

Erick Rheam

**2:15pm – 3:15pm      30-Day AI Challenge Panel**

Josh Seidemann

**3:15pm – 3:30pm      Networking Break**

**3:30pm – 4:30pm      “Millennials and Entrepreneurship through Acquisition (ETA)”**

Diane Hartz Warsoff

**4:30pm – 4:45pm      Closing Remarks**

**Scavenger Hunt:** Get ready to explore Salt Lake City and connect with fellow NREDA attendees! Complete fun challenges with your team on Wednesday and/or Thursday for a chance to win a prize (announced Thursday). More details coming soon!

**Dinner on your own**

**6:30pm – 8:30pm      President’s Reception**

Light Appetizers and one Drink Ticket provided

## ***Thursday, November 5th***

**8:00am – 5:00pm**

**Onsite Check-in at Salt Lake City Marriott Center**

**8:00am – 9:00am**

**NREDA Breakfast & Awards Ceremony**

**9:00am – 9:15am**

**Networking Break**

**9:15am – 10:15am**

**Breakout Sessions**

- **Session 1: “NIMBYism”**

Lindsay Diehl

- **Session 2: Rural Housing Panel: “Programs, Funding Sources, New Development, and Revitalization”**

Lisa Hurley, Heather Presley-Cowen

- **Session 3: “Understanding the New Legislation on Opportunity Zones and New Market Tax Credits”**

Thane Hutcheson, Michael O'Mara

**10:15am – 10:30am**

**Networking Break**

**10:30am – 11:30am**

**Breakout Sessions**

- **Session 1: “NIMBYism”** (*Repeat Session*)

- **Session 2: Rural Housing Panel: “Programs, Funding Sources, New Development, and Revitalization”**

(*Repeat Session*)

- **Session 3: The Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Energy and Mineral Development**

**11:30am – 12:30pm**

**NREDA Lunch & Learn**

Ryan Mack, Visit Salt Lake

**12:30pm – 12:45pm**

**Networking Break**

**12:45pm – 1:45pm**

**“Elevating the Pipeline: Developing the Community Leaders of Tomorrow, Today”**

Tamien Dysart

**1:45pm – 2:00pm**

**Networking Break**

**2:00pm – 5:00pm**

**Mobile Classrooms**

- Double Decker Bus Tour of Salt Lake City
- Gateway Mall Tour
- Temple Square and Family Search Library Tour

**5:00pm – 6:30pm**

**Networking Reception**

Sports Night! Wear your favorite sports team apparel

**Scavenger Hunt Day 2**

## ***Friday, November 6th***

|                          |                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>8:00am – 10:00am</b>  | <b>Onsite Check-in at Salt Lake City Marriott Center</b>                                                                  |
| <b>8:30am – 9:30am</b>   | <b>NREDA Annual Business Meeting Breakfast</b>                                                                            |
| <b>9:30am – 9:45am</b>   | <b>Networking Break</b>                                                                                                   |
| <b>9:45am – 10:45am</b>  | <b>Site Selector Panel</b><br>Lindsay Diehl<br>Alex Patrick<br>Chris Wimsatt                                              |
| <b>10:45am – 11:45am</b> | <b>Closing Keynote</b><br>Charlie Smith                                                                                   |
| <b>11:45am – 12:00pm</b> | <b>Conference Closing Remarks</b><br>Karla Organist, NREDA President<br>Kris Williams, 2026 NREDA Annual Conference Chair |

# **SAVE THE DATE**

## **2027 NREDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

### **PITTSBURGH, PA**

### **NOV. 3<sup>RD</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>**



# Mobile Classrooms

***Thursday - November 5th 2:00pm-5:00pm***

## **Double Decker Bus Tour of Salt Lake City**

This double decker bus is fully enclosed on both decks. The route/itinerary covers Temple Square, the Cathedral of the Madeleine, the Utah State Capitol, a scenic drive through the Wasatch Foothills, This Is the Place Heritage Park and the Pioneer Center, and a tour of downtown Salt Lake City's development corridor — all with live expert commentary woven throughout.

## **Gateway Mall Tour**

An overview of how The Gateway has successfully pivoted and evolved in response to market changes since the development of a competing shopping center just a few blocks away.

- Discussion of open, pending, & recently completed redevelopment at the center.
- Insights into strategies for attracting new businesses and retaining existing tenants.
- Perspectives on drawing visitors to the center and encouraging repeat visitation.
- Considerations on how external factors—such as surrounding area development, economic shifts, weather patterns, and changing consumer and business needs—are currently impacting the center.

## **Temple Square and Family Search Library (Limit of 40 Attendees)**

Located in the heart of downtown Salt Lake City, historic Temple Square is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Utah and is the world headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The five-city-block area draws millions of visitors from all over the world because of its research libraries, cultural activities and historic buildings. The centerpiece of the square is the Salt Lake Temple, the product of four decades of construction in the 19th century.

West of the main Temple Square block, those interested in learning more about genealogy flock to the Family History Library, the largest library of its kind in the world. Next door is the Church History Museum, which tells the story of the worldwide Church through educational exhibits and programs.